(b) and (c). Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) which is not a Government organisation, led a high powered delegation to China between September, 13th and 20th, 1996. Besides attending the meetings arranged by the World Economic Forum, the delegation also met with representatives of the All China Federation of Industry & Commerce (ACFIC). Areas of discussion covered a wide range of topics such as agro products, auto components, marine products, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, refractories, electronics etc.

The Formal Report of CII about these discussions is still awaited, on the receipt of which appropriate action can be considered.

Powerloom Service Centres

511. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHALIA :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up powerloom service centres in the country during the Eight Five Year Plan;

(b) whether the locations of the proposed centres have been seleced;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the criteria for their selection;

(d) whether any priority has been given to those places where labourers have been rendered jobless owing to the closure of sick textile mills; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (e). Yes, Sir. During the Eight Five Year plan the following Powerloom Service Centres have been opened :-

S.No.	Year	Name of Place	Name of State
1.	1992-93	Bangalore	Karnataka
2.	1992-93	Komarapalayam	Tamil Nadu
3.	1992-93	Dholka	Gujarat
4.	1993-94	Sachin	Gujarat
5.	1993-94	Betagiri	Karnataka
6.	1993-94	Huzurabad (Karimnagar)	Andhra Pradesh
7.	1993-94	Bhiwandi	Maharashtra
8.	1994-95	Alwar	Rajasthan
9.	1994-95	Salem	Tamil Nadu
10.	1994-95	Somanur	Tamil Nadu
11.	1994-95	Pandesara	Gujarat
12.	1995-96	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh
13.	1995-96	Kannur	Kerala
14.	1995-96	Bhagalpur	Bihar

The Locations of these Powerloom Service Centres have been decided on receipt of suggestions/proposals from State Governments and on the basis of areas of Powerloom concentration. These centres cover variety of functions such as training on loom maintenance, improve knowledge in weaving for producing better quality cloth, guide about modernisation, guidance on marketing and export opportunities through seminars and workshops, provide testing facilities, technical consultations, design development and diversification. These centres are used as nodal points for transmitting knowledge and technique through field visits and as co-ordinating points in bringing their problems to the knowledge of the State and the Central Government authorities. The powerloom service centres also popularise various schemes of Government of India like Life Insurance Scheme for Powerloom Workers, NABARD and SIDBI refinance scheme for modernisation and renovation of powerloom units.

[Translation]

Coloured Cotton Yarn

512. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government provide coloured cotton yarn to powerloom sector on concessional rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to help the small powerloom who are facing hardship to get coloured cotton yarn for their industries?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No, Sir. The Central Government does not provide any coloured cotton yarn to powerloom sector at concessional rates.

(b) and (c). Does not arise in view of 'a' above.

[English]

Multilateral Agreement on Investment

513. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated its approach to multilateral agreement on investment (MAI) draft of the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to safeguard the national as well as third world interests in the face of liberalised investment regime; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d). India is not a member of the OECD and hence is